(ACBD) MARGARET
SLOAN, R. ? ARMSTRONG

DRAWER 2A FIVE SHIPLEY SISTERS

71.2009.085.0548

Cognate Families of Lincoln

Shipley Family

Margaret Shipley Sloan Armstrong

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.05418

Teachers College
State ~~Normal School~~
Livingston, Ala.

G. W. BROCK,
PRESIDENT

Feb-21-1933,

Director of State Museum of National History
Springfield Ill.

Please give me the address of Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

Dr. Warren's conclusion as to Lincoln's grandmother and Nancy Hanks' mother is correct in that Nancy's mother was a Shipley and married a Hanks.

Lincoln's grandmother was a sister to my great grandmother Margrate Shipley.

I think the whole can be satisfactorily verified. A granite marker rests on the foundation bricks of the chimney of the house where Nancy Hanks was reared in N. C. and tells something about her.

Do not publish this until given in full and same has been checked and verified by Dr. Warren.

Yours truly,
Miss Mary Ella Armstrong
State Teachers College
Livingston
Alabama

COPY

February 23,1933.

Miss Mary Ella Armstrong,
State Teachers College,
Livingston, Alabama.

Dear Madam:

Your letter of the 21st to the Director of the State Museum of Natural History has been referred to me. The address of Dr. Louis A. Warren is Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Very truly yours,

cc/Dr.Louis A. Warren

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February 27, 1933

Miss Mary Ella Armstrong
State Teachers College
Livingston, Alabama

Dear Madam:

Through the courtesy of Mr. Paul M. Angle your letter to him of February 21, 1933 is before me. You can feel sure that I am intensely interested in what you have to say about the grandmother of Nancy Hanks and I would appreciate more than I could tell any information that would help us to positively identify her mother as to the Shipleys.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

9.

Teachers College
State ~~Normal School~~
Livingston, Ala.

G. W. BROCK,
PRESIDENT

Feb 29-1933

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

My dear Sir;

Abraham Lincoln's grandmother was a Shipley and married a Hanks. Her daughter, Nancy Hanks, went to relatives in Kentucky and married a Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln's grandmother and my great grandmother, Margrate Shipley, were sisters.

The above information is from Matthew Armstrong and his wife Margrate Shipley, to their son Matthew Armstrong; from Matthew Armstrong to his grand-daughter Clarissa Armstrong, from whom I wrote it down verbatim from dictation

The Armstrongs are of Scotch descent. They neither add to nor take away.

The Armstrongs and Shipleys lived in N.C. Unfortunately the old county court house and

its records were burned,

I do not know what became of Nancy's mother, neither do I know her given name.

A little information from other sources could be added, if you are interested.

Yours truly

Miss Ella Armstrong

State Teachers College

Livingston

Alabama.

P.S. I have been a teacher here for 12 years - Director of Art.

Dr. L. A. Warren
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,

My dear Sir;

Mine is a N. C. family. I teach in Ala, I have written to the only party I know who might possibly be able to give us a little data. Will take up your inquiries as soon as our mid quarter's rush of work is over.

The Lincoln Lore bulletins are highly interesting. Margrate Shipley Armstrong once sent her son on a visit to her Ky. relatives. I believe that your conclusions are correct as to the Lincoln - Hanks - Shipley relationships

Yours Sincerely
Miss Ella Armstrong
State Teachers College
Livingston
Alabama

Mch, 12. 1933.

March 3, 1933

Miss Ella Armstrong
State Teachers College
Livingston, Alabama

Dear Madam:

You may feel sure I appreciate very much the information you have forwarded about the Shipley family. It is possible that you might help me still further in locating the identical place where the Shipleys lived at the time Margrate Shipley was growing up.

I am wondering if you could give me the county in North Carolina as well as the general location of the home in the county. I am wondering also if you have heard of any other sisters of Margrate and who they may have married. Furthermore, I wonder if you could put me in touch with the members of the Armstrong family who are still living.

I trust you will feel that I appreciate this assistance very, very much as it helps us with the problem we are trying to work out.

I am sure you would like to have some of the bulletins which I enclose and which will give you some insight into the work we are trying to do.

I have always been convinced that Nancy Hanks was from a good family and I am sure that the Shipleys are just the kind of a background we would expect her to have.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:AAM
Encs.

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State Teachers College

Livingston, Ala.

March 29-1933.

G. W. BROCK
PRESIDENT

Dr. Louis A. Warren

Lincoln Research Foundation, Fort Wayne, Indiana,

My dear Sir,

I judge that you wish every detail.

Margrate Shipley, my great grandmother, first married Robert Sloan who was killed or died in the Revolutionary War. She married Matthew Armstrong shortly after the Revolution.

The enclosed is from Mrs. Minnie Stowe Puett, great great granddaughter of Margrate Shipley and descendant of one of her Sloan children.

So far as I know, the N. C. Lincolns are not related to Pres., Lincoln's father. The old town Lincolnton N. C. I do not know the origin of its name.

Mrs. Minnie Stowe Puett is one of the historians for the N. C. Federation of Clubs, and was instrumental in placing the marker referred to. I sent her your article No. 179. Her address is Belmont, N. C.

Confusion is often due to preservation of given names in family branches, and that may be true of James Hanks in N. C. also of Dicky Hanks, etc.

Yours Sincerely
Miss Mary Ella Armstrong
State Teachers College, Livingston, Ala

Sowhegan Point Road
Home of W R Rankin 1 mi
Left Sand Clay Road 1 mi
Big White Hair in pine trees
300 yds from
Mrs Stowe — H. B. Stowe

April 4, 1933

Miss Mary Ella Armstrong
State Teachers College
Livingston, Alabama

My dear Miss Armstrong:

It has been very kind of you indeed to put me in touch with Mrs. Puett, who I think will be of great assistance in helping to work out the puzzle of Lincoln's paternal ancestry.

There is no doubt in my own mind but what Nancy Hanks' mother was Lucy Shipley but there is some question as to what was her father's first name, although I am confident that the name implies he was a Hanks.

It will be necessary for us to dismiss all the unlovely stories that have been told about Nancy Hanks and her parents as we have documentary evidence now to show that Thomas Lincoln, who Nancy Hanks married, was a very respectful pioneer and in much better circumstances that we have heretofore believed.

If you hear anything further that will be of interest to us relative to the Shipley family, of course we shall be delighted to hear from you.

Quite soon we intend to publish a bulletion on the Shipley which will give the various branches in tracing them back to the Caroline residence.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
LAW:LH Lincoln National Life Foundation

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Belmont, N.C.
March 18, 1933.

Dear Ella:

I am enclosing copy of inscription on marker.

The clipping you sent is most interesting. But, to my mind there is a veil of mystery wrapped about the mother of Nancy that can never be entirely lifted, unless Abe, himself has done it in the papers entrusted to his son, which are in the Congressional library and which are to be opened in 1941.

Let's analyze the traditional part of the clipping, the Shipley part, that we are most interested in. It is stated that there were six Shipley sisters, two not accounted for. One of these was, of course, Margaret, our common ancestress, another is said to have been the mother of Tom Lincoln and wife of Abraham lincoln, Tom's father----If we are not careful we will get linked up with the trifling Tom----The Shipley's were here, we know, and they kept coming and going until after the Revolution. A few lingered others went to Kentucky. There was an Eli, with a war record, in Mecklenburg county. Where the homesite of the Shipley's was I do not know, but, I believe, somewhere on the Catawba not far from where I was raised. In the Secretary of State's office, Raleigh there is a record of a land patent to Edward Shipley granted on November 2nd, 1784 located on both sides of the Catawba River. Others of them were here at least ten years prior to this time.

It is known positively that two of the Hanks family, Dicky and James, were here and heads of families in 1790, This is proven by the census. James is supposed, by some to have been the father of Nancy. Now if James Hanks were her father and Lucy Shipley Hanks her mother why did she live with the reprobate, Dicky instead of her own father and mother? If it could be proven that James Hanks did marry Lucy Shipley, as seems quite probable, how is it to be told whether or not Nancy was the child of such a marria ge?

The above is, ofcourse, unsupported supposition, but it is hard to dislodge an idea that was planted somehow and took root years ago. I have long thought that Nancy came by some of her characteristics honestly.

Robert Mitchell together with Margaret Shipley Sloan Armstrong and another were the administrators of the estate of Robert Sloan, my great great grandfather. You see he was grandma Margarets brother-inlaw.

The James Hanks mentioned was almost certainly the grandfather of George and ancestor of the family here.

Dicky was not mentioned in Joseph's will. To my mind it seems likely that Dicky, that the James that was here and the mother of Nancy were of another family than that of Joseph.

I do not know when Nancy left Dicky's home.

Minnie Stowe Puett

9

April 4, 1933

Mrs. Mimie S. Puett
Belmont, North Carolina

Dear Madam:

Through the kindness of Miss Mary Ella Armstrong, State Teachers College, Livingston, Alabama the contents of your recent letter to her have been passed on to me.

It is impossible for me to describe how pleased I am to make this contact because I feel quite sure now that the problems which have confronted those who have been studying the Shipley family for many years are about to be solved.

From several sections of the country family traditions have been coming to me about the Shipley family and their connection with Abraham Lincoln.

The confusion, however, seems to have arisen from the tradition that was quite early circulated that Abraham Lincoln's grandfather had married a Shipley.

This I believe to be untrue as there is no evidence that the Lincolns and Shipleys were in the same community at any time before their arrival in Kentucky.

We now have the united testimony of the Mitchells, the McCords, the Berrys, your own family, and the relatives of Nancy Hanks which are in harmony about the origin of Lincoln's mother and the relationship of the Shipley sisters in North Carolina.

It now remains for us to find, if possible, some court records which would show Robert Shipley's residence at some point in North Carolina and if possible some accurate record of the number of members in his family and their names.

I do not know of any one better located to discover this data than yourself and I feel that you would help to make a very fine contribution to American history if you could assist us in this effort.

I am not so sure but what your marker is correctly placed in locating the childhood home of Nancy Hanks and we have no positive evidence that her father's name was James, it may have been Dicky as is suggested, but I am wondering if possibly there has not been confusion between Nancy Hanks' uncle Richard (or Dicky) Berry-who married Rachel Shipley.

Nancy Hanks lived with this Richard Berry at Kentucky and possibly lived with him in North Carolina.

My theory is that Lucy Shipley Hanks was widowed shortly after the birth of Nancy and that she went to live with her little girl with her sister Rachel Shipley Berry. This is my theory and I think she remained with the Berrys after they reached Kentucky until she married a second time Mr. Henry Sparrow, Nancy Hanks Lincoln remaining with her uncle and aunt after this second marriage.

Very shortly I will have available some data on the Shipley family which will be available for circulation among some of your relatives.

While living in Kentucky for many years I had contact with a Shipley family there and have gathered hundreds of Shipley records throughout the years, Although of no relation to the family myself, I am intensely interested in giving to Abraham Lincoln and Nancy Hanks' mother a respectful and, I feel, a very honorable background.

Let me assure you again that I appreciate very much the help you have given me by the information conveyed in your letter to Miss Armstrong.

Enclosed you will find a few bulletins relating to the problems which are now confronting us.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

LAW:LH
Enc.

MRS. W. B. PUETT
BELMONT, N. C.

April 27, 1933.

Mr. Louis A. WarrenDirector
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I am sorry I cannot give you the information you desire about the Shipleys. There are several Shipleys mentioned in Colonial records of North Carolina but not Robert. Neither does there seem to be any record of a grant or deed to a Robert in the office of the Secretary of State, Raleigh. If he were a land owner the records should be in Mecklenburg county or Lincoln from which Gaston county was cut off. It is practically certain that the Shipleys lived near the Catawba river in one or the other of the above mentioned counties.

Robert Mitchell and Robt. Sloan, both of whom married Shipleys, lived near the River on the Mecklenburg side. McCord is also a Mecklenburg name. The Berrys were on the Western or Gaston side of the River. Some of the Berrys, still living near the River, in Gaston county participated, in the Revolution. Thomas Lincoln and two brothers, Josiah and Mordecai, were, according to strong tradition, born in this county their mother being Miss Mary Shipley. Two sisters were born later in Kentucky. It is known positively from the 1790 census that there were here, at that time two Hankses, Dicky and James. Dicky, an uncle was the one with whom Nancy lived. It seems likely then that Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln knew each other before either went to Kentucky.

All these people were freinds and neighbors in Virginia, Amelia county where records may exist. They came to North Carolina. Some of them remained as their descendants here can testify others, as the Lincolns, some of the Berrys and Shipleys, probably about 1780, went on to Kentucky.

Thank you for the bulletins, I have enjoyed them very much.

Very truly yours,
Minnie S. Puett
Mrs. W. B. puett
Gaston Co. Historian

May 3, 1933

Mrs. W. B. Puett
Belmont, North Carolina

My dear Madam:

Your correspondence is indeed very interesting and especially that portion of it which refers to the Hankses and the Shipleys coming from Amelia County, Virginia.

I am wondering if there are any family traditions which support this fact or any records there which would indicate the Virginia residence of these Shipleys and Hankses.

I have quite a complete list of the Hankses in Amelia County and have been there on two or three occasions to do research work.

Quite soon I wish to publish a special bulletin on the Shipleys which I think will go out to several hundred members of the Shipley family now in America. This should be a great help in solving our problems.

As soon as the bulletin is ready I will be pleased to send you several copies so that you may have it for reference work.

Thanking you again for your interest in this matter, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director
LINCLH Lincoln National Life Foundation

June 25, 1935

Mrs. Mimie S. Puett
Belmont, North Carolina

My dear Mrs. Puett:

It is my intention during the latter part of July to visit Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and make some further investigation with reference to the Shipley family.

While there I hope it will be convenient for me to have a conference with you at Belmont and I would appreciate very much if you would learn, if possible, if other descendants of the Berry Hanks or Shipley family are still living in the vicinity of the Catawba River.

It appears to me that we have gathered so much information about the early history of the family that it is time that some deductions should be made that will be accepted by historians generally.

I would greatly appreciate your help and trust that in Gaston County there may be some records available which will be of assistance.

Very truly yours,

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

LAR:EB

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MRS. W. B. PUETT
BELMONT, N. C.

June 26, 1933.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln N ational Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to have the Bulletins about the Shipley sisters, and am appreciative of your kindness in sending them.

There is a little more information about the Shipley's which I have gathered and which I shall forward as soon as I have time to get it together.

Cordially yours,

Mrs. W.B. Puett

Mrs. W.B. Puett,
Gaston County Historian

June 30, 1933

Mrs. W. B. Puett
Gaston County Historian
Belmont, North Carolina

My dear Mrs. Puett:

I am very glad indeed to hear from you again and should be very much pleased if you could definitely locate for me the site of the original Shipley home. We are gathering more data on the family from time to time, and I hope by the time the summer is over we will have quite a fine lot of biographical data compiled.

You may feel assured that anything you may do to assist us will be very greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

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MRS. W. B. PUETT
BELMONT, N. C.

July 1,1935

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

If I can assist along the lines mentioned in your letter, I shall be glad to do so. However, I am afraid not many records are available.

Yours very truly,
Minnie Stowe Puett
Mts W.B. Puett
Gaston County Historian

August 6, 1934

Mrs. W. B. Puett
Belmont, North Carolina

My dear Madam:

My quest for new material on the problem of Abraham Lincoln's maternal ancestry which took me into North Carolina and Virginia proved to be productive of many new valuable leads.

I had a very pleasant visit indeed in Gaston County and especially in enjoyed seeing the monument and marker to Nancy Hanks Lincoln which you and your brother erected.

I was somewhat disappointed in not being able to find at Charlotte some of the earlier records of the county which must bestored away somewhere unknown to the present officials.

The first audit book or record book of the county which gives the early list of commissioners and county officers is apparently not available either at Charlotte or at Raleigh. Book No. 2, however, is in Raleigh. I am wondering if some time when you are at Charlotte you will not make some effort to locate this old order book No. 1 which the people at the State Library claim is still in Charlotte. This would be a valuable source indeed to which I have not had access.

There is one other source of information very valuable indeed and often overlooked which I could not discover at Charlotte. It is the old paper usually filed and stored away to which the public does not have access

but which gives the appointment of Road Commissioners, early tax lists, records of students, etc. which is by far the most valuable historical source. These bundles of old papers I could not discover at Charlotte although I think they must be stored somewhere.

In Virginia I had much better success. I came back home very much encouraged with the material which I was able to gather.

I noticed all throughout my

When I have sufficient time to gather the material and make some deductions from it, I will write you further with respect to the actual results of the trip.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH Director

July 5, 1935

Mrs. W. B. Puett
Gaston County Historian
Belmont, North Carolina

My dear Mrs. Puett:

I have before me a very interesting letter written on April 1, 1895 from Gastonia, North Carolina, by Mrs. W. H. Hoffman. In this letter Mrs. Hoffman speaks of the old family bible in her possession which gives the names of a great many of the Hanks family, which I believe is the same family in which we are especially interested.

In this letter Mrs. Hoffman states that "Dr. E. B. Holland and family have moved to Bluefield, West Virginia. They are the only ones I can refer you to who might be of some assistance to you."

It would be of very great interest to me if this old bible could be located through any of the descendants of Mrs. Hoffman. Also if the present address of Dr. Holland could be secured, if he is still living.

Thanking you for your willingness to be of assistance to me, I am

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

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MRS. W. B. PUETT
BELMONT, N. C.

July 20, 1935.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

Upon my return from a vacation I received your letter of July 5th.

Mrs. W.H/ Hoffman is dead and most of her family. She probably has one son living whose address I do not know.

The Hollands, who moved from here to Bluefield, West Virginia are dead with the exception of one, Mr. Claud Holland, Gastonia, N.C. One member of this family, Dr. Geo. Holland,now dead,was well posted on County history. I have talked with him about historical matters, but if he knew anything about the Hanks family he did not tell me though I knew him to be a direct descendant of "Dicky Hanks", The uncle with whom Nancy lived while a resident of this County.

Some of the Hankes are still here. The Shipleys and Berrys are gone. There are plenty of Shipley descendants bearing other names.

It may be of interest to you to know that there is a record of a land grant to Edward Shipley in the office of the Sec. of State, Raleigh. The location is indefinite, only states on both sides of the Catawba River.

Wishing you success, I am

Cordially yours,

Mrs. W.B. Puett

Mrs. W.B. Puett
Gaston County Historian

July 23, 1935

Mrs. W. B. Puett
Gaston County Historian
Belmont, North Carolina

My dear Mrs. Puett:

It appears now as if I will arrive in Gastonia possibly Sunday night and will try and get in touch with you some time Monday.

I will have a lot of historical data with me on the Shipley and contact families and will be especially interested in locating, if possible, the original Robert Shipley tract of land.

It appears to me as if it will be necessary while on this trip to go to Raleigh and possibly on to Virginia where I have visited on other occasions.

It appears to me now as if we had enough material gathered so that we can quite definitely establish the maternal ancestry of Lincoln and I will be very happy indeed to have the pleasure of going over the material with you.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

MRS. W. B. PUETT
BELMONT, N. C.

August 24, 1935.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

When I get a little time, I shall be pleased to make an effort to locate the old order book No. 1 and other material of which you wrote.

I am eager to learn the results of your trip to North Carolina. The subject makes great appeal to me.

If I uncover anything that will be of help to ~~you~~ I shall let you know.

Cordially yours,

Nevine Elam Puett

Mrs. W.B. Puett
Gaston County
Historian

November 19, 1936

Mr. W. B. Adams
Rustburg, Virginia

My dear Mr. Adams:

I am taking this occasion to thank you for your many courtesies extended to me while in Campbell County.

I was not able to get to Carroll County but did spend a day at Lunenburg and found some interesting material there. I wish it were possible for you to do some research work in that county.

I am taking occasion to write a letter to your Chief, Mr. Avery McKenner, a copy of which I enclose and I hope it may result in some active effort in the field of research which we discussed.

Enclosed you will please find some copies of Lincoln Lore which you may enjoy reading.

Thanking you again for your courtesies, I am

Yours very truly

LAW:LH
Enc.

Director

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COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
Campbell County
HON. DON P. HALSEY, JUDGE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
C. W. WOODSON, CLERK
R. W. FOSTER, DEPUTY
RUSTBURG, VIRGINIA

Dec. 7, 1936

My dear Dr. Warren:

Somehow or somewhere I have gotten the notion that the Prewitt or Pruitt family has some connection with the Hancks family. I know they were neighbors and I have proof that they (the Prewitts) went to Kentucky (Bourbon and Fayette Counties) about 1794 or earlier. Did you tell me anything about this? I know you said something about the Mitchells and there are several Mitchells mentioned in the PREWITT Chancery papers I found Saturday (Daniel particularly) Please let me know about this at once as there is a lot of material here on this family.

I am still working on the Hancks family and am finding things, but nothing of any importance. Every thing points to the fact that Abraham Hancks stood well among his neighbors and instead of being an impoverished man he was above the average.

I have sought permission from my Supervisor to devote my whole time to this one piece of research as I am convinced that the solution to the mystery is to

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
Campbell County
HON. DON P. HALSEY, JUDGE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
C.W. WOODSON, CLERK
R.W. FOSTER, DEPUTY
RUSTBURG, VIRGINIA

be discovered somewhere in this section. I am also convinced that it will require not cursory but thorough examination of all availabe records of that period. I am, therefore, going through books, page by page, and suits and other bundles of papers, paper by paper. I have seen too many researchers come and go with the definite assertion that there is nothing here, only to discover the very thing for which they hunted, myself. I hope Dr. Eckenrode will give me a special assignment but Mr. Pleasants (the gentleman I mentioned to you, and who is Acting Director of our Work) said the Washington Office would hit the sky if he did that.

I enjoyed your visit here and I shall be delighted to see you whenever you come this way again. I am sorry I took up so much of your time in talking about myself but one sometimes gets pretty hopeless under such circumstances.

Sincerely
W.B. Adams

(over)

I had a delightful visit in the home of Mrs. Louis Asher about a week ago. Both Mrs. Asher and Miss Julia remembered with much pleasure the time you spent in their home. I don't know whether Mr. Asher had died before you were there or not. The two ladies are the only ones at home now.

I am going to Charlotte Court House tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent it.

Prewitt

December 10, 1936

Mr. W. B. Adams
County Clerk's Office
Campbell County
Rustburg, Virginia

My dear Mr. Adams:

It is good news, indeed, to learn that you have been given a special assignment on the Hanks family problem and I think now something will be accomplished.

I do not recall now how many copies of Lincoln Lore I sent you in my last letter relating directly to the Hanks family, but I am having some photostats made today of copies which are out of print which I am quite sure you did not receive.

The Prewitt family which is connected with the Shipley and Hanks families were in the Charlotte Community as early as 1750 and Michael Prewitt's daughter, Rachael, married Robert Shipley, a brother of Lucy Shipley, who is said to have married James Hanks. So you can see the relationship is quite close.

I do hope you will be able to go to Lunenburg County for I think you would find a lot of early records previous to the setting off of Bedford County. I do not think that this county has ever been worked and here it is possible that the marriage bonds of the Shipley girls are filed, at least some of them.

The last Lincoln Lore published on the Shipley family which gives dates discovered about Robert Shipley would be very helpful to you I think in locating other records and I hope you will keep in touch with me so I may be able to assist you if I can in locating the early ancestors of Abraham Lincoln.

I will probably be through there again in February and I hope I will have an opportunity to see you.

Very truly yours,

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

LAW:EB

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
Campbell County
HON. DON P. HALSEY, JUDGE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
C. W. WOODSON, CLERK
R. W. FOSTER, DEPUTY
RUSTBURG, VIRGINIA

Dec 14, 1936

My dear Dr. Warren,

Thank you very much for sending me the additional copies of "Lincoln Lore". I borrowed the Shipley genealogy which you sent the Jones Library and used it to excellent advantage. If I have been assigned to the Hancks family, to the exclusion of everything else, and am to be permitted to go out of Campbell County, I know nothing about it. I wish I could go wherever a definite lead would take me. I am very sure that thoroughness is what is needed, and that means free access to records, as well as discrimination in their interpretation.

Since you were here I have discovered documentary evidence to prove that Mitchells, Brumfields (Mary Hall Brumfield and her brother John, son and daughter of William Brumfield of Charlotte, who left them each a shilling

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
Campbell County
HON. DON P. HALSEY, JUDGE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
C. W. WOODSON, CLERK
R. W. FOSTER, DEPUTY
RUSTBURG, VIRGINIA

Mc Coys or Mackoys, & Prewitts went out of this and Charlotte Counties to North Carolina then into Kentucky. They all lived in the Hat Creek neighborhood and left about the same time.

All this makes me wonder if men like Patrick Henry and Charles Lynch, who owned large tracts of land in Kentucky, didn't colonize it with the people who lived near them.

There are Brumfields in Pittsylvania as well as Charlotte, and there lots of Jennings in Charlotte.

I have also uncovered documentary proof that Abraham Hancks dealt in lumber and building supplies.

You can see what thorough research can do in a short time, when records are accissible. And to get access to them one must prove to the Clerk

that such a privilege will not be abused.

Mr. Woodson and Mr. Russell are both very much interested in the whole thing, and since both of them are in position to give authoritative advice, I think of myself as being a very fortunate person.

I think it is scarcely necessary to tell one like yourself that the very elusiveness of the ultimate objective makes this by odds the most fascinating piece of research that I have undertaken.

As soon as I can correlate the material I have, I will send it along, because I believe that with your knowledge, not alone of the whole problem, but particularly the Western end of it, we can finally arrive at some acceptable conclusion.

I shall, of course, look forward to seeing you in February, which is the one Abe Martin says is "a dandy month to stay in the house and trace ancestry."

Sincerely, W. B. Adams

Rustburg Va
Dec. 16, 1936

My dear Dr. Warren,

My Supervisor was out here today and told me that he had had an interview with Dr. H. J. Eckenrode, the head of my project in Virginia, and was told that it will not be possible for me to devote my whole time to research on the Hancks family. If I turn up any information in the course of my work, well and good, but they will not authorize me to do otherwise than this.

Since I have discovered so much of significance in the short time I have been at it, I am reluctant to stop so abruptly. I am wondering, therefore, if your Foundation would be interested in employing me to do this sort of work for you in this section of Virginia, or anywhere else. You already know how much I earn and I might add that I won't be likely to argue over the matter of compensation.

I can furnish recommendations from my former employer or from a number of well known people, both here and in Lynchburg, if you want them.

You already know that my interest in the question is genuine and even profound, since I had shown that before I knew anything about the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

I shall appreciate it if you will think the matter over and let me know at your earliest convenience.

With kind personal regards, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

W. R. Adams.

December 18, 1936

Mr. W. B. Adams
Rustburg, Virginia

My dear Mr. Adams:

You may feel sure that I appreciate very much your offer to do a definite piece of research work for us but I regret exceedingly that we have no funds available for such work as this which comes under the heading of Genealogical Research.

I think the reason why we do not have a better history of many of the families associated with Lincoln is because no special appropriation is made for doing judt the type of work that you are attempting to do.

I wish it were in my power to authorize some one to give his entire time to this work but such is not the case.

I gather from your letter, however, that you will not be molested in the work you are now doing and you will probably have some time to give to the Lincoln and Hanks contacts as they are called to your attention in the various documents.

May I tell you again how much I appreciate having met you and trust I will see you again in February when I come through Virginia.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

York St extension,
Gastonia, N. C.
June, 6th, 1939.

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

My aunt Miss Ella Armstrong, of Alabama, with whom you had some correspondence, concerning Nancy Hanks' Shipley ancestors, has since died. I found the papers in her trunk and being a direct descendant of Margaret Shipley, I became interested.

The story of Naomi Shipley Mitchell being killed by the Indians, was a familiar one, & Margaret

Shipley's oldest daughter by Armstrong, was named Naomi for her. My great-grandfather Matthew Armstrong visited the Shipley's in Kentucky, when a young man, and told his grand-children they were related to Abe Lincoln through the Shipleys.

I do not know the exact site of the Shipley homestead, as they had land on both sides of the Catawba (tho' Margaret lived in Mecklenburg on the Catawba, until after her marriage to Armstrong, when she moved over to his plantation on the South Fork of the Catawba, in Gaston Co.)

She had two children by Sloan & seven by Armstrong, and is buried at Smith's graveyard near Belmont, her tombstone bears this inscription - Margaret Shipley Sloan Armstrong "died May 27th, 1829 in in her 77th. year. Many of her descendants still live here.

Richard Berry lived in Gaston Co (his name is on bronze plaque placed by D.A.R.s at entrance to Goshen cemetery, the oldest one in County, as being one of Revolutionary Soldiers buried there.

The cemetery is near Belmont N.C. and I am going to take a day off

sometime, and see if I can locate his grave & possibly other's connected.

It is more than likely that it was Nancy's cousin Richard Berry, she lived with in Kentucky.

There was also an Eli Shipley with a war record in Mecklenburg County.

There is also on record in the Secretary of State's office in Raleigh, N.C. a land patent to Edward Shipley on Nov. 2nd, 1784 located on both sides of the Catawba river.

It is probable, that he was their brother & that Lucy, came when he did, as other's were here ten years prior to that time.

Most of the family names mentioned are still familiar ones here with the exception of Berry & Shipley, though we had no Sparrows until a Presbyterian preacher ~~by~~ that name moved here a number of years ago, (he is dead tho' he still has a son here) the town of Lincolnton nearby was named for General Lincoln, I think, as that is not a familiar name in this section.

Hoping this will help you a little, in your research work, I am;

Sincerely,

P.O. Box 1373 (Miss) Marie Smith.

June 9, 1939

Miss Marie Smith
P. O. Box 1373
Gastonia, N. C.

My dear Miss Smith:

I was indeed glad to hear from you as I am intensely interested in the Shipley family connection with the Lincolns and have done considerable research work on the family in Virginia. (I am now trying to get it published.)

You will find under separate cover a bulletin on the Shipley family which I am pleased to send and it may contribute something to the data you have already gathered.

If you come across further historical information about the family I should like very much to be advised as I am sure there is much more to learn about the movements of the Shipleys in North Carolina.

There has recently been printed a history of the Shipley family in Maryland, a book containing 280 pages selling for $10.00. It is published by the Reese Press, Baltimore, Maryland.

I shall be pleased indeed to send you some time lateroon the results of all of my researches in Virginia.

Very truly yours,

LAW:PW
L.A.Warren

Director

8

York st extn
Gastonia, N.C.
June, 28th '39.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind:

My dear Dr. Warren,
Your letter came while I was at the Fair. I was sick when I got home, so I did not get to Belmont & Mecklenburg County until yesterday Mrs. J. B. Hull a cousin of mine in Belmont, went with me and helped me locate the Berry's graves at Goshen. However, I believe the Richard Berry, buried there must have been a cousin of Nancy's uncle

as he died Nov. 25, 1812
age 70 yrs. By him was
Hugh Barry who died
1826 aged 63 yrs. next
was the wife of one of
the Barrys, then John
Barry who died June, 14th
1818, age 45 yrs. and last
in the row was Andrew
Barry who died June, 29th
1839 aged 78 yrs & 5 mos.
it looks as tho' they were
all the same family,
but spelled their name
differently. Right back
of them was a row of
Hanks, & right back of
them a row of Ewings,
it struck me as singular
as there was plenty of
space at that time. The
oldest Hank's grave was
Thomas Hanks', he died
Nov. 5th, 1831, age, 88 yrs.
We then went to Steele

Creek cemetery in Meck-
lenburg County - Found a
Mrs. McDowell who had
a list of all the persons
buried there. (the cemetery
was started in 1700) Among
the oldest ones was a
Robt McCord buried there
July, 10th 1801 & Rachel
McCord wife of Wm McCord
who died in the 46th yr
of her life Aug-8th, 1817.
Also one other buried in
1797 - However there are
lots of McCord's in Meck.
Co.

Mrs. McDowell said that
if the Shipley's were Epis-
copalians, they were pro-
bably buried elsewhere
as it was a presbyterian
graveyard, and they were
very queer at that time.
old I looked through an
marriage record book

of Tryon & Lincoln counties, (Gaston being taken from them) and found the following that might be of interest.

George Berry - Patsy Lincoln, bond by Peter Costner - May - 1812 Witn. Henderson.

Thomas Linkhorn x married Susy Rhodes on Apr. 22, 1808 - Adam Shetly made the bond

Elizabeth Linkhorn married Geo. Tankersley - Christian Rhodes made the bond Sept 16 - 1805. (Don't you think there could have been some misspelling as both the clerks & people were very illiterate at that time) - However Lincoln Co. & town were named for Genl Benjamin Lincoln.

Also found in Tryon Co. history, Robt Berry's name among Lincoln Co. pensioners, he was 72 yrs old at that time, 1831.

Margaret Shipley's 1st husband, Robert Sloan was killed at the Battle of Ramseur's mill, near Lincolnton & is buried there.

Richard Barry was one of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence in 1775, what became of him I don't know, tho I could probably find out from Mrs. McDowell.

Some historians claim that Mary Shipley was the 1st wife of Tom Lincoln's father, tho Tom's mother was named Bathsheba.

Mrs. Hall is going to have a friend of hers in Charlotte go through the old Mecklenburg records & see if they can find anything of interest, if so I will send it to you in 2 or 3 weeks, or as soon as she gets it done. Most of the old Lincoln Co. records were destroyed by fire.

Am sorry I can't find anything of more value to you, but would appreciate a copy of what you have, when you get it together, as every one is interested in same.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Marie Smith

P.O. Box 1373.

July 6, 1939

Miss Marie Smith
P. O. Box 1373
Gastonia, North Carolina

My dear Miss Smith:

Thank you very much for your interesting information which comes with your letter of June 28.

On two different occasions I have been in Gastonia, North Carolina and also in the Courthouse in Mecklenburg County. I have done considerable research work and as soon as time permits I will send you duplicates of what I have found and possibly in working together we may be able to definitely settle the joint family connections as they existed during the early North Carolina residents of the Shipley family.

Very truly yours,

LAW:PW
L.A.Warren

Director

6

Gastonia, N.C.
July, 13th '39-

Box 1373

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne, Ind.

My dear Dr. Warren,
I have not heard from Mrs. Hall, so don't suppose she found anything new, in Charlotte. One of the Sloan descendants, looked a number of years ago, but all she found has been sent in to you. She said she only remembered, hearing about two sisters of her g-grandmother, one of them the wife of Richard Berry, who lived in Gaston Co. & the other was the

wife of Robt. Mitchell who administered Margaret Shipley's estate after Capt. Sloan's death.

However, we know there were others, tho' Margaret was the only one who remained here.

As a child I remember hearing my great-aunts speak of their grand-mother. They said the Shipley family were above the average pioneer family, & were very proud of their Shipley ancestry.

I do not wish my letters written up - I am merely sending you what information I possess, that may be of any benefit to you, in straightening out the same.

Appreciate the information you have given me, along with the other descendants.

Sincerely, (Mrs.) Marie Smith

P.O. Box 1373.

In 1762 a bill was passed creating Mecklenburg Co (from Anson Co) after Apr. 10, 1769 the Co. the county of Meck. divided, that lying to the West of Catawba river to be known as Tryon Co. (or St. Thomas' Parish, tho' they were too poor to hire a minister at the time)

In 1778 Tryon County divided into Lincoln & Rutherford. In 1842 Lincoln & Gaston were put together & in 1846 Gaston was created out of Lincoln & named in honor of Judge Wm Gaston, which it remains.

During the war & for some time after, the town of Salisbury (some 6½ miles from here) seems to have been the County seat for (over)

both Tryon & Mecklenburg.
The original wills & deeds all begin in 1769 for Tryon & 1779 for Lincoln Co.
(Don't know just when the court-house in Lincoln County burned, but it destroyed many valuable documents & created much confusion)
In 1768 a bill was passed by Governor Tryon on marriage. That every denomination of people may marry according to their respective mode.
In 1768 - That all taxes in Meck, Anson, Orange, Rowan & Tryon be paid as in other counties of the province.
(Most of this I got from a history of Tryon Co. & history of Old Lincoln Co).

From History of Lincoln Co, by Rev. Sherrill (H. Connor I believe his given name is, think he resides in town of Lincolnton.)

There was a John Caruth here as early as 1784 - & he still has descendants here.

In all probability Ann Rutledge's people migrated from here, as there were Rutledge's in Gaston Co, as early as 1752 & still are or their descendants.

There was a Capt. Wm Armstrong, who moved to Kentucky right after the war (he was from Lincolnton, there were lots of Zories there, who destroyed most of his property, what relation he was, if any, to our crowd of Armstrongs I don't know.) Lincolnton is eighteen miles from Gastonia.

All of these people, you are interested in lived within a radius of 40 miles of each other, as it is about that distance from the Steele Creek section of Mecklenburg to the town of Lincolnton. The majority of them lived in Gaston, especially the Berrys & Hawks.

The date on the tombstone of Richard Berry (buried at Goshen, looked to me more like 1842 than 1812, that would have made him only ten years old at the close of the war, so I put the 1812, however I believe the Richard Berry they had listed was Nancy's uncle, as he had moved to Kentucky, this other Richard, probably his nephew, got the honour) They didn't take them to war until they were 16 yrs of age.

I looked up the Thomas Linkhorn whose marriage record I sent you, in Sherrill's history. It seems that it had been misspelled, it seems there were a number of Lincoln's here at that time or around Lincolnton. However the Adam Shetley, was not Shipley. Thomas Linkhorn or Lincoln married Susy Rhodes (a member of a prominent pioneer German family there & moved to Missouri together with another member of the family.

I have looked through the indexes of a number of local county histories, but cannot find any Shipley's - so evidently Robert Shipley's family

were the only ones here.
There was heavy fighting going on around Charlotte & also Lincolnton (as there were many Tories there) during the time they were here. In such unsettled times it is no wonder there were no records or markers left. The Eli Shipley I referred to in last letter was prob ably killed. Since Edward Shipley's land was a patent instead of a grant, it could have been a deed, his parents probably observing the English law of leaving it to the eldest son. So think probably the older one died about that time.
Rather believe they went to a magistrate to be married at that time. So you cannot hope to find records

According to her tombstone Margaret Shipley (or Margate the old folks spelled it) was born in 1752, the year Matthew Armstrong's father Col. John Armstrong received a grant on the South Fork of the Catawba. After her husband, Captain Robt. Sloan was killed at battle of Ramsour's Mill. Matthew Armstrong (as was the custom of neighbour's at that time) went over to help run her farm. and though ten years younger than she fell in love with her & married her. They then moved over to his farm where they lived in a large log house, the walls of which are still standing, tho' not on the original site. There they

lived a happy simple life until her death in 1829.

One incident at her death makes it stand out clearly in the minds of her descendants.

Her husband & children coming in from the field, found her lying dead on the floor, presumably from a heart attack. Her daughter who had married a McKee & lived nearby, rushed over, together with her family - just about that time a storm came up - the house was struck by lightning & Greene Oliver McKee a grandson was killed by the bolt. He is buried near her & his tombstone bears record of same.

Margaret Shipley, has a number of descendants in Gaston Co. Many of them prominent.

July 20, 1939

Miss Marie Smith
P. O. Box 1373
Gastonia, N. C.

My dear Miss Smith:

Thanks very much for the information with reference to the Lincoln family and other items which have come through your recent letter.

I contemplate very soon preparing a copy of the Lincoln Kinsmen on Richard Berry.

I cannot feel that the Richard Barry and our Richard Berry are one and the same. I think we will have to look elsewhere for another Richard Berry who lived at Mecklenburg about a decade or two previous to 1790. There is a bare possibility that Richard Berry never did go to North Carolina but migrated directly from Virginia. This remains to be worked out.

As we discover the facts about the family in which you are interested we will be pleased to make them known to you.

Very truly yours,

LAW:PW
L.A.Warren

Director

July 20, 1[illegible]

[illegible]
P. O. Box [illegible]
[illegible], N. Y.

Dear [illegible]:

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Very truly yours,

[illegible]
G.A.W.:[illegible]

Gastonia, N.C.
July, 27, 1939.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

My dear Dr. Warren.

I meant to explain in my last letter that Richard Barry, was not our Richard Berry - however I overlooked it. Richard Barry lived in Meck, all his life, is buried at Steele Creek, I think. He was Sheriff of Meck, for a while & quite active in County affairs.

However the Barrys & Berrys are said to be the

same family-
There are a number of Berry's living in Charlotte, you might get in touch with, if you wished to learn more of them. I don't know anything about the family, except what I have seen in books.
The Richard Berry that married the Shipley is supposed to have lived in Gaston Co for awhile, tho' he probably went to Kentucky before the other's.
The old Shipley homestead was also on the Gaston Co. side, tho' the exact site is not known, it was some-

where on the Catawba, between the, South Fork, + the bridge, that leads from Belmont to Mack. The Sloan place is right at the bridge, both a little over two miles from Belmont.

You might possibly find an old will or deed, by writing the Register of deeds at Salisbury, N.C.

Owing to the fact that Nancy Hanks is supposed to have lived here at one time a number of wild tales have been told at one time or another, too far-fetched to be

believed in. The one the old negro woman in Neck, told of a mysterious Nancy Hanks who lived on the Catawba + was spirited away one night. I thought rather funny. Evidently the family took an early start when they moved to Kentucky.

Should I find anything more of interest regarding the Shipley family. I shall be glad to forward same to you. However it has been such a long time since they were here, I am afraid, there is not much to be seen.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Marie Smith

P.S. I think in my last letter I made Euston Co. an independent Co. most to some

York Rd.
Gastonia, N. C.
Mch. 23rd, 1940.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing clipping containing an old legend or story of a Nancy Hanks who was supposed to live here - Personally I don't believe it, nor does the public in general - however, Mrs. Pratt (a descendant of Margrate Shipley through the Sloans & historian of the county has written it up, together with a nice Beard) The James Hanks whom I referred to in my last letter is supposed by some to have been the father of Nancy, and a brother to Dicky.

I looked through the list of

Hanks as recorded in marriage register of old Lincoln Co, & none of them married a Shipley.

All of the other Shipley records have been found in Mecklenburg, however, & are now in Raleigh, you might find out something, if you could get hold of the old marriage records of Meck. (in Raleigh also).

My father believed Nancy or her mother rather to be either a niece or sister of his g-grandmother Margrate. & did not believe this other story, thinking it just another of the wild tales that have been circulated.

He was very well up on local history, but he has been dead for some time & I can not remember it all. I did remember the story of Naomi, however. They said she was a wom-

-derful horse-back rider, was very fearless & was riding just a little ahead of the men, was the reason she was killed. I also remember the story of my grandfather's visit out there, he was six or seven years younger than Nancy Hanks & about twenty when he went out there, he stayed several months.

In an old letter of Mrs. Pettit's written my aunt back in 23 concerning our Shipley ancestors. She states that she does not know all the names of our grand-mother's sisters - but mentions three.

Tom Lincoln's father married Mary Shipley while temporarily residing in N. C. Tom was his child by a later marriage.

That Joseph Hanks of Vir. & Ky - married one.

There was another who married Richard Berry, they lived

on the Catawba river, in Gaston Co. too, it is thought later moving to Ky.

Whether this is the family record, or not I don't know. I suppose it is -

Mrs. Pruett is a very lovely woman, but a little set in her view-points. She has been very sick or I would see her & ask her about it - so I am taking the liberty of sending you what she had written my aunt.

Don't you think Berry's probably went back to Va. about 1784 & went to Ky with the Lincolns, since they were there in 1785)

In all probability Lucy went to Va. on a visit (since they seemed to go back & forth frequently) married James Hanks in Va. came back here with Nancy & was a target for the gossips.

Hoping this may help
you clarify it some.
I am,
Sincerely,
Marie Smith.

March 28, 1940

Miss Marie Smith
P. O. Box 1373
Gastonia, N. C.

Dear Miss Smith:

I find I am again under obligation to you for some interesting information referring to the Berry family, and especially the newspaper clipping. On my last visit to Gastonia I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Puett and heard from her the story of Nancy Hanks.

I agree with you that I do not think it can be substantiated. It must have been some other Nancy Hanks rather than the mother of the President.

Some day I hope to be able to write a little story on the Shipley family other than the one already prepared in the Lincoln Kinsman.

Possibly on my next visit to North Carolina I will have an opportunity to talk with you about family history in which we are both interested.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director

York Rd.
Gastonia, N.C.
June. 18, '40.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

My dear Dr. Warren,
I wish to thank you for the pamphlet on the Hanks family, I find it quite interesting

She thought that Mary S. had married Lincoln & lived on the Catawba for awhile, that Mordecai, a girl & another boy probably Tom were born there & that possibly we were related to the Lincolns, through Tom, (however, my family always said it came through Nancy, & I still think Tom was by a second marriage.-) Steele Creek across the river was a regular McCord settlement, so she thought that one correct. There were also a number of Berry's living here & in Meck. at the time, Richard & Rachel Berry lived in Gaston

tho' I am a rather
amateur historian
I was in Belmont
yesterday & went by
to see Mrs. Puett -
in regard to the
Shipley family -
evidently she had
read that about
Joseph Hawkes mar-
rying a Shipley (I
have read the same
thing) for she did
not think that
to be true - however.

however, possibly with
the Shipley's - rather
think Naomi & Mit-
chell lived on the
Meek. side of the
river, since Margaret
lived there during
Sloan's lifetime & as
a widow (I was mistaken
about the Sloan place
being in Gaston) &
Mitchell was the admr.
of her estate. She
also said that one
or two of the Shipley

would dn't tell her if they knew, one of them did say, he had heard that Nancy Hanks once lived in N.C. but that was all he knew.) That story originated in Rutherford Co, however, Enloe being a captain in the Rev. war.

Mrs. Hall is going to enquire in Charlotte again as to the whereabouts of the old marriage Records, and if she finds any of interest, I shall be glad to send them to you.

Am enclosing marriage Records of all the Hanks of that period I could find in Lincoln Co records - tho' the book states that marriages

boys had a distin-
guished war record
in Meck. but she
still thinks that
Betsy Hanks was
the mother of Nancy
& not Lucy Shipley.
members of the
Hanks family liv-
ing at Belmont
say they never
heard of such a
person (tho' Mrs.
Puett said they

performed by a preacher or J. P. were just as legal, they kept the records, so that means they are lost.

Hanks, James, Starrett or Sterriet.
Wm Starrett, Aug. 26th, 1779
Hanks, David - Elizabeth Hoyle 1793.

Am sorry I can not get more definite information, but, fear, this is all to be learned.

Sincerely,
Marie Smith.

P.S. Mrs. Puett also stated that Betsy Hanks & her daughter Nancy lived with their brother (Betsy's brother, rather) Richard Hanks & were both rather low characters - This may explain why the real Nancy & her mother were annoyed so, as I can't believe they were the same persons.

Hanks, John - Elizabeth
Weathers, Aug. 16, 1810

Hanks, Joshua.
Mary Renwick -
Richard X Hanks
Feby. 13th, 1812.

Hanks, x Richard,
Levina Young.
Mch. 1st, 1821 -

Wm Hanks, Lucy
Jane Gaston
Apr. 28, 1835.

Shipley

June 25, 1940

Miss Marie Smith
P.O. Box 1373
Gastonia, N. C.

Dear Madam:

Thanks for your further information about the Shipley family and if we keep plugging away we may eventually be able to prove conclusively that the mother of Nancy Hanks was Lucy Shipley Hanks, which is our supreme objective.

We are going on the assumption that Lucy Hanks married a James Hanks of Virginia and that Nancy was born in Virginia and possibly her mother and Mr, Hanks may have come to North Carolina. Just where James Hanks died we are not advised and just where Lucy Shipley Hanks was living at the time of the death of James Hanks we do not know. Neither do we know just where Nancy HHanks Lincoln was born. These are points which we would like very much to clear up.

Yours very truly,

LAW:EB

Director

10.

Po Box 1373
~~Hook Rd,~~
Gastonia, N.C.
8/23/40.

Dr. Louis R. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind.
Dear Sir.
Was in
Charlotte yesterday
& found some in-
formation in
regard to Shipley
family, I thought
you might want

So am enclosing
same.
Think the party
that told me Ship-
leys lived in Boston
were mistaken, as
all evidence points
to Mecklenburg.
The 1790 Census
gives a Thomas
Hanks having six
Mek. with a wife &
two children under
sixteen. There were
also a number of

other Hanks in different parts of the State, but there is not a single Shipley in the state. - So unless some of Mr Cook's Cleveland folk, Margaret Shipley's descendants are the only ones here. All the Shipleys mentioned belonged to the same family, and so far as I can ascertain, were

the only one I am
to leave there.
If you have an
extra copy of the
pamphlet on the
Shipley family the
Post Staff sent, I
would appreciate it
it, as a keepsake of
friends wishes for
me.
Please pardon
pencil, my ink
has dried appreciate.
Sincerely,
Marie Smith.

Harris Book 31 pg 1

On the day of July 1772

Moses Scott & wife Sarah

to Edward Gilpley -

161 acres - lies both sides

of Catawba - Crooked

Creek - surveyed by

Moses Scott

Witnesses

Thos McCord -

Joseph Gilbreath.

[illegible] Charlotte Court

[illegible] are [illegible]

State Historian, Raleigh

[illegible]

[illegible] copy [illegible]

David McCord
to
Robert Shipley

1. Book [illegible], Page [illegible]
2. Kind of Instrument Deed
3. Date of Conveyance 4/18/77
4. Consideration 30 lbs Tobacco
5. Estate conveyed Fee
6. Does conveyance contain full covenants? Yes
7. Properly sealed?
8. Properly acknowledged before
9. Date of acknowledgment
10. Privy examination taken?
11. Order Probate correct?
12. Date of filing
13. Properly indexed?
14. Conditions and restrictions?

185 acres in Mecklenburgh County

(Signed also by Jane McCord her mark)

Witnessed by Edward Shipley and George Shipley

Shipley

August 27, 1940

Miss Marie Smith
P. O. Box 1373
Gastonia, No. Car.

Dear Madam:

Thank you very much for the notes enclosed in your recent letter about the Shipley family. We take pleasure in forwarding a copy of The Kinsman for your Cousin.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

7

Gastonia, N.C.
Dec. 20th '40-

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I find that the Shipleys lived in the Hopewell Section of Mecklenburg Co. quite a lovely section as well as a very historic one.

the 'Beattie's Ford road leading out from Charlotte to the Hopewell section - commemorating the event of Oct. 1780.
Mitchell's mill was said to be near there.
I rather imagine the older Shipley's are buried at 'Hopewell' cemetery, tho there are no markers - & the church records do not go back that far - however it was established in 1762.
John McKnitt Alexander was J.P. of that section tho I dont know whether his records are still in existence - or not.
I did not write to Raleigh in regard to marriage bonds - as I thought you

I could not find Eli Shipley's war record, so think my aunt mistook Edw. for Eli & there probably wasn't one of that name. Edward & George were among the 14 boys or young men who took part in the famous McIntyre Skirmish - and both their names are on the marker's placed by the D. A. R.s on

would know better about finding them than I.

There are still some Mc Cord's in the Hopewell neighborhood, tho' I understand the 'Hank's' moved to Ala.

I believe the Thomas Hanks, buried near the Berry's & Ewing's in Goshen cemetery (Gaston Co) is probably from Meck. his son

on Meck. history, might be
able to tell you more.
Thank you very much
for the pamphlet you
sent me for Mrs. Hall.

Sincerely,
Marie Smith.

Dr. Wm Hanks practiced near Belmont & is the ancestor of the Hanks living there now -

There was a John Hanks in Lincoln Co - in 1790 as well as Richards & James, they were probably all brothers.

This is all I can find, tho' perhaps some one else better up

December 24, 1940

Miss Marie Smith
Gastonia, N. C.

My dear Madam:

You will please find enclosed a recent issue of the Lincoln's Kinsman which gives you a little history of the Shipley, Pruitt, Mitchell and Hanks families before leaving for North Carolina.

Some day I hope to do a Lincoln Kinsman on the North Carolina contacts and of course should appreciate any further information which you may be able to gather.

There is no question in my mind but what the families to whom we so often refer in connection with Lincoln's mother came from Mecklenburg County or Gaston County, North Carolina.

Thank you for your continued help.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Enc.

APARTMENT 509
99 SOUTH RAYMOND AVENUE
PASADENA 1, CALIFORNIA

July 30, 1950

Dear Mr. Warren:

I was reading your Parentage and Childhood of Lincoln when your letter in answer to my letter arrived.

The copies of "The Lincoln Kinsman" which you mailed arrived in due time.

What I am especially eager to get are those Prewitt (Pruit) records, too numerous to publish in The Lincoln Kinsman, mentioned in one issue. Who has those unpublished Prewitt records? And how may I get copies of them?

Many thanks for your kind interest.

Sincerely
Lillian P. Goodknight

Prewitt family

August 24, 1950

Miss Lillian F. Goodknight
Apartment 509
99 South Raymond Avenue
Pasadena 1, California

My dear Miss Goodknight:

The Prewitt documents to which you refer were copied by me many years ago from various courthouse records in Virginia and while these records are open to research students in our library we do not have sufficient personnel here to make copying available and also the searching which would go along with it.

Many years ago I had correspondence with Miss Mary Ellen Armstrong, State Teachers College, Livingston, Alabama who knew very much about Prewitt's history in North Carolina and I also corresponded with Mrs. W. B. Puett, Belmont, North Carolina but I feel quite sure that she has passed away. I do not know whether or not htere are any professional genealogists in this town who would be willing to do the searching and copying for you but it could be a matter of finding someone with the time and inclination. Of course there are many cognate names that would probably be associated with the family. I wish I might be of more assistance but time will not permit the research necessary.

Very truly yours,

LAW:ABA
L.A.Warren

Director

Amelia County Virginia Records

Thos Prewitt of Raleigh Parish Amelia County sold land on Hocks Creek in 1737. Amelia Co. Deed Book I p 54.

Thos Hinton sold land on Deep Creek to Joseph Prewitt and Joell Prewitt in 1760
Amelia Co. Deed Book VII p 334

Bedford County Virginia Records

michael and James Pruit witnesses on a deed, daugherty to Robert Shepley Jr. May 10 1769 Bedford County
Bedford County Deed Book C p 350

michael and James Pruit witness on a deed, daugherty of Edward Shepley. May 10, 1769, Bedford County.
Bedford County Deed Book C p 352

James Pruit witness on deed for land sold by Robert Shepley, Rachel to Thos Marshall
Bedford Co. Deed Book. F p 69

Elisha Prewitt, witness on deed for land sold by Robert Shepley to Daniel Mitchell
Bedford County Deed Book D 4, 86

michael Pruett Jr. note due Daniel Mitchell Nov. 1775
Bedford will Book 2 Page 8

110 11 .

Pruit Michael

Bedford Co Va & Shelby Co Ky

I No 9 with 130Y

Genealogy + History

Prewitt Family

1750 Richard Prewit and Immoclus Murrell patent land on Halls Creek
1755 Thos Prewitt patentee land on Catawba
1750 Daniel Prewitt will recorded at Halifax-ct
Wife Sarah – sons William + John
1773 Michael Prewitt marr 1st. Sarah Hurt, 2nd Betty Hurt.
patented land on Falling River
Michael Prewitt's children
Robert – Patsy Chandler moved to Lexington Ky
old Bible preserved by son William S Prewitt 3-8-1815
Rachel - Robert Shipley
Jane
Elisha
Judith
Michael m Elizabeth Simpkins
Byrd - Sarah Hurt 1782
Early Campbell chronicles p 484.

Brown Family

John Brown married Mary Byrd [illegible]
[illegible]
Lynchburg [illegible] - Brown [illegible]

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